

MOBILE – Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, will participate in the first day of the fall Gulf of Mexico red snapper season by joining officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alabama Department of Conservation, and other state and local officials in deep-sea fishing from the Alabama Gulf Coast on October 1, 2010 to promote the return of the local fishing industry.

“The Alabama Gulf Coast has been hit hard, economically, emotionally, and environmentally, by the BP oil spill,” Rep. Bonner said. “Now that the Deepwater Horizon well has been permanently sealed and more waters are open to fishing, it’s time to show the world that the best place to catch red snapper is once again open for business.

“I was honored to be invited to join Dr. Roy Crabtree of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alabama Department of Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley, and Captain Ben Fairey of the Orange Beach Fishing Association in going deep sea fishing in Alabama waters on opening day of this fall's red snapper season Friday,” Bonner said.

Additionally, Dr Bob Shipp, Dean of Marine Sciences at the University of South Alabama and Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, as well as LaDon Swann, Director of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, will be on board to tag and release selected snapper in an effort to set a baseline for future research of the species.

The state-sponsored trip is scheduled for October 1, leaving from Orange Beach Marina on Marina Road in Orange Beach, Alabama. Captain Fairey's charter boat "Necessity" will leave the dock at 7:00 a.m. and return to Sportsman's Marina on Canal Road in Orange Beach around noon.

**News Media:**□

**Press is invited to cover the fishing event and should RSVP as soon as possible to:**

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